

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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### **JOHNSON CREEK MAN GETS 40 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Mark Bergmann, 39, Johnson Creek, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 40 years in federal prison for distributing child pornography, the maximum penalty for the offense under federal law. Bergmann pleaded guilty to the charge on September 24, 2007.

An investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation revealed that Bergmann sent an unsolicited image of child pornography to an individual in Minnesota during a Yahoo! chat room discussion on June 11, 2007. A subsequent search of Bergmann's Johnson Creek apartment lead to the recovery of additional child pornography videos and still images. A separate investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement revealed that Bergmann had also exchanged child pornography images and videos with an individual in Nebraska.

Judge Crabb commented during sentencing on the horrific nature of the images possessed by Bergmann, some of which depicted sexual violence against children as

young as six months old. Bergmann has two prior Jefferson County, Wisconsin felony convictions for sexual assault of a child (92CF198) (94CF211), and admitted during his recent confession that he fantasizes sexually about small children while looking at child pornography and continually struggles with his urges to touch small children.

The charges against Bergmann were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Johnson Creek Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith P. Duchemin.

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